

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TS

SUBJECT: SFCP "MODEL AGREEMENT"

REF: STATE 211344

1. EMBASSY GRATIFIED PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARD FORMULATION OF "MODEL AGREEMENT" AS REPORTED REFTEL. UNTIL THIS MATTER SETTLED, IMPLEMENTATION OF AT LEAST SIX SFCP RESEARCH PROJECTS (FOUR LISTED TUNIS 5634 AND TWO AGRICULTURE PROJECTS) FOR A TOTAL PLANNED EXPENDITURE OF 419,851 DINARS APPEARS UNLIKELY.

2. WE CONCUR IN CONCEPT OF OVERALL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL AGREEMENT AND BELIEVE GOT WILL BE AGREEABLE. HOWEVER, IMPORTANT THAT AGREEMENT COVER ALL OR MOST OF IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN SFCP'S SINCE MOFA HAS CLEARLY INDICATED THAT NEGOTIATING THESE ARRANGEMENTS SEPARATELY BETWEEN U.S. AGENCIES AND TUNISIAN COUNTERPARTS AS IN PAST IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE. GOT WISHES SIMPLIFY WHAT HAD BECOME CUMBERSOME AND TIME-CONSUMING CLEARANCE PROCEDURE THROUGH MOFA BY STANDARDIZING ADMIN-
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ISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR ALL SFCP PROJECTS TO INSURE THEIR CONFORMITY WITH TUNISIAN REGULATION AND POLICIES.

BY DEFINITION, "MODEL AGREEMENT" WOULD ALTER VARIOUS TERMS OF REFERENCE USED BY SOME U.S. AGENCIES IN PAST.

3. WE WISH STRESS ADVANTAGES FOR U.S. SCIENTISTS AND INSTITUTIONS IN HAVING COMPREHENSIVE S&T AGREEMENT DESPITE TEMPORARY PRESENT DIFFICULTIES IN RECONCILING VARIOUS AGENCIES' PROCEDURES. ONCE THIS IS NEGOTIATED, DESCRIPTION OF EACH PROJECT WITH STATEMENT OF SPECIFIC GOALS, PROCEDURES, BUDGETS AND IDENTIFY OF PERSONNEL INVOLVED WOULD BECOME "OPERATING PLAN" FOR PROJECT WHICH MOFA HAS TOLD US SHOULD BE CONCLUDED DIRECTLY BETWEEN U.S. AGENCY AND TUNISIAN COUNTERPART (TUNIS 4748). WHILE CLEARLY A QUESTION OF DEGREE, ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS THAT MIGHT BECOME CONTROVERSIAL SHOULD BE DEPT OUT OF "OPERATING PLAN" TO MAXIMUM EXTENT. FOR EXAMPLE, PRINCIPLE OF BUDGETIZATION SHOULD BE DESCRIBED IN "MODEL AGREEMENT" BUT DIVISION OF FUNDS INTO THOSE TO BE BUDGETIZED AND THOSE TO BE RETAINED UNDER U.S. AGENCY CONTROL SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN EACH "OPERATING PLAN".

4. EMBASSY PREPARING INFORMAL COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE CONTEXT OF MODEL AGREEMENT AND WILL POUCH TO NEA/AFN. THESE ARE BASED ON OUR UNDERSTANDING OF TUNISIAN CONCERN AND DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. AGENCIES WITH SFCP PROJECTS IN TUNISIA.

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